



# Tennessee News Release

Tennessee Field Office • PO Box 41505 • Nashville, TN 37204 • (615) 781-5300 • [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)  
In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

## SOYBEANS, WHEAT SKYROCKET; COTTON, CORN DROP SHARPLY

**NASHVILLE, March 31, 2008** – Tennessee farmers plan to make decisive shifts in crop acreages during 2008, according to a March 1 survey of producers conducted by the Tennessee Field Office of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. Similar to last year’s 320,000 acre upward spike in corn, soybean acreage is projected to rise 410,000 acres and, if realized, the largest one year increase since records began in 1924. Also noteworthy is the projected increase of winter wheat acreage, which would mark the highest level since 1984. The large shifts are being prompted by tremendous market prices for soybeans and wheat, combined with high input costs for other crops. This shift in acreage would result in sizable decreases in land devoted to cotton and corn for 2008. State Director Debra Kenerson commented that, “We are seeing the State’s farmers adjust crop acreage to take advantage of changing markets. However, these results reflect producers’ intentions as of March 1 and could change, as weather conditions and other factors dictate.”

The March 1 survey showed the following results: **corn** acreage, down 25 percent from last year to 650,000 acres; **soybeans**, up 39 percent to 1,450,000 acres, the highest acreage devoted to this crop since 1986; **cotton** intentions, at 310,000 acres, down 40 percent from last year’s planted acreage of 515,000 and the lowest acreage since 1983; **winter wheat** seedings, at 620,000 acres, up 200,000 acres, or 48 percent from the previous year; and **hay** acreage for harvest, up slightly to 1.75 million acres.

Planted Acreage, 2006-2007 and Intended 2008, Tennessee and United States

Crop	2006	2007	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2008/2007	2006	2007	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2008/2007
Tennessee					United States			
	1,000 Acres		Percent		1,000 Acres		Percent	
Corn	550	870	650	75	78,327	93,600	86,014	92
Sorghum	14	22	25	114	6,522	7,718	7,415	96
Winter Wheat	280	420	620	148	40,575	44,987	46,840	104
Soybeans	1,160	1,040	1,450	139	75,522	63,631	74,793	118
Cotton, all	700	515	310	60	15,274.0	10,830.3	9,389.6	87
Tobacco, all <sup>2</sup>	19.80	19.98	19.00	95	339.00	356.00	350.92	99
Dark fired-cured	5.3	6.2	7.0	113	11.85	14.60	17.40	119
Burley	14.0	13.0	11.0	85	103.70	106.30	97.20	91
Dark air-cured	0.50	0.78	1.0	128	4.30	4.98	7.30	147
Hay <sup>2</sup>	1,830	1,725	1,750	101	60,927	61,625	60,583	98

<sup>1</sup> Intended plantings for 2008. <sup>2</sup> Acres harvested.

### U.S. SUMMARY

**Corn** growers intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from last year when corn planted area was the highest since 1944. Expected acreage is down from last year in most States as favorable prices for other crops, high input costs for corn, and crop rotation considerations are motivating some farmers to plant fewer acres to corn. Despite the decrease, corn acreage is expected to remain at historically high levels as the corn price outlook remains strong due in part to the continued expansion in ethanol production.

**Soybean** producers intend to plant 74.8 million acres in 2008, up 18 percent from last year, but 1 percent below the record high acreage in 2006. Acreage increases are expected in all States, except in West Virginia, which is unchanged from last year. The largest increases are expected in Iowa and Nebraska, up 1.25 million acres and 1.20 million acres from 2007, respectively. Increases of at least 800,000 acres are also expected in Indiana, Minnesota, and South Dakota. If realized, the planted acreage in Kansas, New York, and Pennsylvania will be the largest on record.

**All cotton** plantings for 2008 are expected to total 9.39 million acres, 13 percent below last year. Upland acreage is expected to total 9.19 million, down 13 percent from last year, the lowest since 1983. Growers intend to decrease planted area in all States except Georgia and Oklahoma. The largest acreage declines are in Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas. American-Pima cotton growers intend to decrease their plantings by 30 percent from 2007, to 203,600 acres. California producers expect to plant 180,000 acres, down 31 percent from last year.

U.S. all **tobacco** area for harvest in 2008 is expected to be 350,920 acres, down 1 percent from 2007 but 4 percent above 2006. Expected decreases in flue-cured and burley tobacco will more than offset increases in fire-cured and dark air-cured tobacco.

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)